

Kobuk

MT

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

WASHINGTON, D. C.,

March 24, 1904.

Dr. Henry Gannett,

Chairman, Board on Geographic Names.

Dear Sir:

I should like to reopen the question of the name of the so-called Kowak River in northwestern Alaska. I have already called attention to the fact that the decision of the Board on Geographic Names is leading to much confusion in reference to this river. The native name is Kobuk, and this name has been accepted by the people of the region and is universally used except in Government publications. It has appeared as Kobuk on at least two official maps.

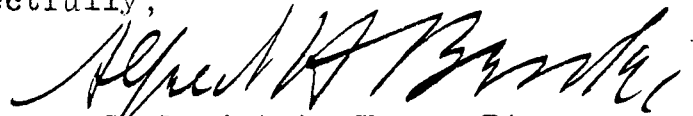
As I stated in my previous letter, the name Kowak was probably originally a misprint, and though it has appeared on the few maps issued of the region, it never was locally accepted. It is only since 1898 that the name has appeared in print, with the exception of on a few maps previously issued of the region. Since 1898, many white men have visited this district, and they have universally accepted the native name for this river.

It has been the source of much confusion for the Geological Survey to be obliged to use this name, which is not recognized by the miners and prospectors of the district. I fail to see any reason why this name, which has received but little publicity, should be retained in the literature, in view of the fact that its retention will cause a very great amount of confusion. As

I have stated before, the name Kobuk has appeared on two official maps. I would respectfully request, therefore, that the Board reconsider its decision and accept the name in common use.

Last fall I had a conference with the late Mr. Marcus Baker in regard to this matter, and he agreed to the change and promised to bring the matter up before the Board.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Rupert H. Brown', written in a cursive style.

Geologist in Charge Div.
Alaskan Mineral Resources.